

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OECD, ECON

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE
(EDRC) REVIEW OF PORTUGAL

REF: (A) OECD PARIS 22109, (B) OECD PARIS 14979

1. AS INDICATED REF A, EDRC REVIEW OF PORTUGUESE ECONOMY IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE ON OCTOBER 20. MISSION WOULD RE-EMPHASIZE (SEE REF B) THAT EDRC MEETING WILL PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR OECD (AND US) TO UNDERLINE ITS CONTINUING INTEREST IN AN IMPROVED ECONOMIC SITUATION IN PORTUGAL AND THAT CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSION AT REVIEW CAN HELP TRANSMIT TO GOP VIVIDLY AND DIRECTLY WHAT TYPES OF POLICY APPROACHES OTHER OECD COUNTRIES BELIEVE WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE FOR PORTUGAL TO ADOPT. MOREOVER, THE PUBLISHED OECD ECONOMIC SURVEY OF PORTUGAL WHICH WILL RESULT FROM EDRC MEETING CAN BE USEFUL VEHICLE FOR EXPRESSING PUBLICLY INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR STABILIZATION MEASURES BY GOP WHICH ARE NECESSARY, BUT POLITICALLY DIFFICULT TO IMPLEMENT.

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2. GOP CAN ENHANCE QUALITY OF EDRC DISCUSSION BY SENDING REP AT APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL (SEE REF B, PARA 3) WHO CAN DISCUSS GOP POLICIES, OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTATIONS FRANKLY AND WITH AUTHORITY. (FYI: TEAM FROM OECD SECRETARIAT MET IN LISBON WITH PORTUGUESE OFFICIALS IN LATE JUNE IN PREPARATION FOR EDRC REVIEW. HOWEVER, GOP DID NOT INDICATE TO SECRETARIAT WHO ITS REP TO EDRC WOULD BE).
3. MISSION WILL AIRMAIL SECRETARIAT'S DRAFT ECONOMIC SURVEY AS SOON AS AVAILABLE (NORMALLY TWO WEEKS BEFORE MEETING) TO WASHINGTON AND TO EMBASSY LISBON. AS IN THE PAST MISSION WILL SEND TELEGRAM WHICH WILL SUMMARIZE SECRETARIAT DRAFT, OUTLINE US EDRC DEL'S PROPOSED LINE OF QUESTIONING AND SOLICIT COMMENTS/ SUGGESTIONS FROM WASHINGTON AGENCIES AND FROM THE EMBASSY.
4. MISSION WOULD WELCOME PARTICIPATION IN EDRC REVIEW BY REP FROM EMBASSY LISBON.
TURNER

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